WE WANT OUR PEOPLE TO THINK FOR THEMSELVES — GARVEY

ABENG

Vol. 1 No. 17 May 24th, 1969

Price 6d.

SIGNING AWAY BAUXITE: Lightbourne, C.E. Winkler, Vice-Pres. Alcoa Minerals Jamaica, P. Dorrance, general manager, Jim Bovell, Legal Rep.

BAUXITE: NEW SELL-OUT AGREEMENT

Another scandal was revealed last week. The Government had signed a new taxation agreement with Alcoa, one of the American companies taking away Jamaican bauxite. Negotiations are taking place with the other companies as well.

The scandal is that the Jamaican people have not been told about the terms of the new agreement. Their opinion has not been asked nor their views solicited about the future of our bauxite industry. And our bauxite has once again been signed away for a number of years **known only to God, the Government and the American companies.**

The first agreement with the companies was made in 1950, when the Colonial Office was in power and the Bustamante Government was in office. It signed away the bauxite for 20 years for a paltry 2/8 a ton. Between that time and 1957 the companies shipped away 8 million tons of bauxite.

The second agreement was made in 1957, when the Manley Government was in office and the Colonial Office was still in power. It established a "price" for bauxite of U.S. $7.35 per ton and an assumed cost of $3.50, leaving an assumed profit of $3.85. When taxed at the Jamaican income tax rate of 40%, this gave $1.54 in income tax. This is 11/- at the old exchange rate with the U.S. dollar and 12/10 at the new rate. In addition there were royalties of between 4 and 2 shillings per ton.

But since that time, twelve years ago, the revenue per ton of bauxite taken away has not increased. There is a provision that when the price of aluminium changes, half the taxes paid will change in the same way. But since 1957 the price of aluminium has been more often lower than it was then.

On the other hand, the cost of producing bauxite may have gone down since 1957. And what is certain is that the companies have been valuing Jamaican bauxite to the U.S. Government far greater than in the agreement with the Jamaican Government. **For example in 1964 the value they put on Jamaican bauxite was $14.05, almost twice the value under the 1957 agreement! If they paid taxes on that value it would probably amount to almost £2 a ton!**

Now a new agreement is being signed, with the Shearer Government **in office** and the United States State Department **in power.** What kind of agreement can we expect from them? WHY IS IT SUCH A GREAT BIG SECRET, ANNOUNCED ONLY AFTER OUR PRECIOUS BAUXITE HAS BEEN SIGNED AWAY LOCK, STOCK, AND BARREL?

The people of this country must summon The Government to account for its actions and answer some questions, like these:

1. **Why is it that Alcoa, with whom the Government has just signed an agreement, is building an aluminium smelter in Puerto Rico? Is it not a fact that Puerto Rico has no bauxite? Is it not a fact that this smelter (300,000 tons) is to make aluminium from Alcoa's Jamaican Alumina Plant (600,000 tons)? Is it not a fact that this smelter is to use nuclear power and could as easily be put in Jamaica?**
2. **Is it not a fact that the North American** companies are taking £10 million a year out of the country, and £20 million after the Alpart plant starts up? That this is as much as the Government spends on education?

INSIDE:
MAY 1938
WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW

NEW COMPANY TAX FOR BIG BUSINESS

Last week we had a look at the section of the Budget dealing with Income Tax and Taxes on transfers of land and shares. This week we examine briefly some of the new provisions dealing with Company Taxation.

The basic idea behind the new provision is to separate companies from shareholders for purposes of taxation. Under the old scheme a company paid a tax of 42½ per cent on its profits, whether or not these profits were distributed to shareholders.

The new scheme will operate as follows–
The company will pay 35% of its profits to the Government as a company tax and will deduct a further 37½ per cent tax from dividends paid to the shareholder. In other words, for a company which pays out all its profits in dividends the Government's share will increase from 42½ to about 60%. For a company which retains some of its profits for re-investment, the tax will be somewhere between 35 and 60%. **The more it re-invests the lower the tax.**

This looks fine on the surface. The Government's hope is that companies, in order to shield their shareholders from taxation, will be inclined to declare less in dividends than previously. Investment will therefore grow at the expense of luxury consumption which increases imports and affects the balance of payments adversely.

It amounts to another tax incentive device to encourage the private sector to invest, since the Government is itself afraid to do so. **The Government does not appear to know where it is going.**

It professes to be encouraging the small man to invest in the new shiny stock exchange. But the new tax proposal will certainly help the big shareholders most of all.

Big shareholders control the dividend policies of companies. By postponing the declaration of dividends into the future they will reap tremendous capital gains in the value of their shares. They can afford to wait. The "small man" who invests in shares wants his dividends now but is unlikely to get them. Of course, shares are something which the sufferer only hears about.

The new proposals have not yet been drafted into a law but it will be interesting to see what will be the provisions regarding the subsidiaries of foreign companies operating in profitable areas of the economy like bauxite, banking, insurance and public utilities. Are they going to pay the additional tax on profits remitted to their foreign headquarters or are they going to be exempt so that the treasuries in their respective countries can reap the difference?

We are against hand-outs. We know that Jamaica has sufficient resources to support all our people and we know that our people, freed from the social, economic and cultural oppression imposed by 300 years of foreign domination, have the capacity to utilize those resources for their own welfare.

Beggars do not have self-respect and a "beggar" government which degrades the whole nation by stooping to anything.

For instance, the Jamaica Government accepts free hand-outs in the form of food from the U.S.A. This food is supposed to be used to feed poor persons for whom the Government is not prepared to provide. This food we often hear, is corruptly used at election time to win votes.

It has come to the attention of ABENG that a large Canadian bauxite company has been using flour which comes in bags marked 'Donated by the people of the United States' and 'Not to be sold or traded'. This flour is used by the company in the process of extracting the alumina from the bauxite soil.

Where does such a company obtain this 'free' flour, given for the purpose of feeding the poor and needy? Things being as they are ABENG is suspicious that somebody may be making a 'roast' at the expense of poor people. Perhaps there is some other answer. We are waiting for an explanation.

MAY, 1938: WHAT WE NEED TO K

WHAT HAPPENED IN JAMAICA IN MAY AND JUNE, 1938?

Viewed in West Indian perspective, May-June 1938 in Jamaica was only part of a series of similar disturbances which had shaken the British West Indies since 1935 and was to continue after Jamaica's events. In general the problems of Jamaica were the problems of all, as the report of the Moyne Commission gives gloomy witness. But the Jamaican disturbances had qualities of their own, which distinguish that territory from the others.

The outbreak in Jamaica was more widespread than the others, even taking account of the greater size of the island. The riots in Barbados in April 1937 did spread beyond Bridgetown, but the capital was the main scene of events. Similarly, Port-of-Spain was affected by the troubles of June 1937, as were other parts of Trinidad, but the southern oilfields provided the real centre of gravity. In Jamaica scarcely a parish remained without serious riots, strikes and demonstrations, though the bulk of the most serious trouble was in the east and north-east, and the most disturbed area of all (with the exception of Kingston) was eastern St. Mary. The Jamaican events were not only more widespread than elsewhere, but more prolonged. The Frome outbreak from 29 April to 2 May was a prologue to a major drama which began on 21 May with a dockers' strike in Kingston and petered out on 10 July with minor indicents in both the east and west of the island.

During that three weeks the whole colonial system was under the severest pressure, and it can be argued that not until 5 June did the administration really show signs of being able to handle the situation in terms other than the use of brute force.

This last point is an important one. In face of official rationalisations, it is necessary to emphasise the seriousness of the threat which the events of 1938 constituted to the established order. The official report stressed the absence of violence:

> In reviewing these disturbances, we are struck by the remarkably small number of casualties considering how prolonged and widespread was the disorder. It is a tribute alike to the good temper of the labouring classes of Jamaica and to the forebearance and humanity of those whose duty it was to preserve order.
>
> (Report of the Commission to enquire into the Disturbances in Jamaica, p. 2.

The last point is open to the gravest doubt. Two labour leaders, S. Kerr Coombs and H.C. Buchanan, were gaoled for six months for exposing the brutality of the police in St. James, and the much more "respectable" Jamaica Standard also questioned the activities of Special Constables in Montego Bay. The very report itself describes the case of Edgar Daley, who, on refusing to give up his stick to a policeman when the crowd he was leading was halted and throwing the policeman to the ground when he tried to take the stick, was bayonetted and had his back broken with rifle butts!

> (His actual words, given in the report, are worth recording, since the voice of the sufferer is rarely heard: "He said 'No, not a rass. You have you gun. I have my stick.' ". (Report, p. 14.)

COLONIAL MYTH

As to the "good temper of the labouring classes", it is necessary to remember how essential this view is to the colonial myth. The masses according to this must be seen as simple, happy people, either misled by agitators or (in the more "liberal" version contained in the official reports) with genuine grievances but expressing them in the wrong way because of ignorance and the lack of proper leadership. **What these good-tempered people were in fact doing was blocking roads, cutting telephone wires, breaking down bridges, burning cane, destroying banana trees and, on several occasions, ambushing armed police with nothing but sticks and stones. Given arms, ideology and** different leaders the story might have been quite a different one.

THE COUNTRYSIDE VS. KINGSTON

A further point which must be emphasised is the extent of the disturbances in the rural areas. In so far as reference is made to the events of 1938, there is a tendency to dwell on what happened in Kingston. There is no gainsaying the fact that events there were very important. With an estimaed 10,000 people taking part in strikes and demonstrations there at the peak, and given that the city was the centre of administration and commerce, it could not be otherwise. **But the dockers' strike, the focus of the events in Kingston, was over by 28 May and essential services had been restored before that; the city was in fact paralysed for only two days. The dockers and other strikers had shown a willingness to negotiate from the beginning, though they refused to listen to Manley while Bustamante was in gaol. Above all, perhaps, the presence of N.W. Manley and Alexander Bustamante in the city and their willingness to act as negotiators (on which more later) gave the authorities an opportunity, which they took, of bringing the situation rapidly under control.**

In the rural areas they were direct assaults upon the representatives of authority; there was a much more direct confrontation between the demonstrators and the agents of repression; and events were much more prolonged. When Manley and Bustamante extended their mediatory efforts beyond Kingston there is evidence that on occasion they were not heeded. What is certain is that rural discontent was only pacified by a promise made first by the Acting Governor on 5 June (Sir Edward Denham had died on the 2nd) that £500,000 (in later versions £650,000) would be spent on the purchase of land for settlement by peasant farmers.

WHO WERE THE DEMONSTRATORS?

There is at first glance a blanket answer to this question—virtually everyone who was a wage labourer or unemployed or for some other reason regarded himself or herself as a sufferer. This is, however, far too simplistic. It raises without answering it, for example, the very complex question of consciousness—why did some people identify themselves as sufferers and others not? Why did shop assistants and clerks, often as miserably paid and generally abused as other wage-earners, persist in regarding themselves as "middle class" (or at least aspirants thereto) and thus separate from the demonstrators? This is one of the problems which is worth raising here, but which I cannot yet answer, while space forbids further speculation. We need to remind ourselves of the need for careful analysis of the separate interests involved in 1938.

THE SEPARATION OF INTERESTS

Attention may be drawn to six of these.

1. **The Workers at Frome Sugar Estate.** As already noted, events at Frome served as a prologue to the main drama, though unrest continued there through May. This was a somewhat exceptional case, with special local causes for discontent as a result of the activities of the West Indies Sugar Company in developing its new estates. With a labour force of only about 700 involved, the Frome workers are to be distinguished as a special separate interest mainly because they gave the "cue" to the rest.

2. **The Dockers and other Public and Private Employees in Kingston.** Again, this "interest" is singled out mainly because of Kingston's general importance, its large concentration of wage-workers and unemployed, and because events there do form a distinct pattern with its own dynamic. In other respects the interests of, say, dockers or Public Works Department labourers in the Corporate Area did not differ from those elsewhere.

3. **Public Works Department Labourers.** These seem to have been a radical force throughout the island. Since about the middle of April the government had been trying to relieve unemployment by expanding this labour force and setting them to work on roads and railways and the new airport at Palisadoes. A very similar case were labourers employed by the Parochial Boards.

4. **Ex-servicemen who had been settled on government land grants.** This is a group on which more research must be done, but there is some indication that this was a militant interest in Manchester, where there were two large schemes of this kind. There were others in St. Thomas, Clarendon, St. Ann, Westmoreland and Hanover. It would appear that inade-

The Sufferers

quate provision for fur
agricultural extension
once settled, and lack of
hardship.

5. **Caneworkers.** These
affected group; there w
disturbances on at least
four big estates. Howev
two problems arise. First
other twenty estates,
gather) there were no
ther research may reve
estates which help to
The second problem ar
ledge of the exact struc
1938, so that it is im
kind of workers were
example, field or factor
the most militant were
but construction worke
new factory.) A furth
a number of estates
bananas, or cattle, or
might not have been
who were the most mi
that should be made
actions of the sugar wo
by the management
There are indications
often willing from ear
negotiate, with the ab
structure proving to
particularly significant
A.G.S. Coombs, Presid
ers' and Tradesmen's U
cussions between worke
place. Even the wides
ambivalent: it may hav

Official Violence Moves Against The People.

Busta Trios To Cool Da

KNOW

ipture Kingston .

r assistance through
vices to these men
pital, had resulted in

re an important dis-
serious strikes and
urteen of the thirty-
n assessing their role
hat happened on the
re (as far as I can
disturbances? Fur-
differences between
ain this distinction.
from lack of know-
of sugar estates in
ible to know what
militant there, for
orkers. (At Frome
caneworkers at all,
o were building the
mplication is that
bined sugar with
. In these cases it
tual sugar workers
. One further point
t in some ways the
could be contained
he administration.
the workers were
the disturbances to
of a formal union
handicap. It seems
at Frome, where
the Jamaica Work-
did intervene, dis-
management took
burning of cane is
en intended to hit

the owners where it hurt most- their profits- but it should also be remembered that burned can can be saved if out within twenty-four hours: burnings may therefore have been attempts to force management to settle quickly.

6. **Banana workers.** Based on the number and intensity of incidents in 1938, these were probably the most important single interest involved. **In areas of banana cultivation, more particularly St. Mary and Portland, we find the greatest militancy and intransigeance. It is there that road-blocks, bridge-breaking and wire-cutting were most evident. The majority of direct** confrontations with the police were in the banana areas, and in consequence (with the exception of the first Frome affair) most of the major shooting incidents. It was banana workers who were responsible for the physical attacks on important individuals, and, on a few occasions, for besieging others in their homes. What this adds up to is an attempt to force concessions from the system by doing actual damage to it in a more serious way than anywhere else in the island.

If banana workers were the most militant in 1938, we must look more closely at who they were. One category of banana worker is immediately discernible, the dock workers and boatmen who loaded at the ports like Montego Bay (and Kingston, where the dockers' strike started among banana loaders). Yet these were not the most militant; they were prepared to negotiate for higher wages from the start, and A.G.S. Coombs secured these for them at Montego Bay after five days of strikes and demonstrations.

It was the banana carriers in the hinterland who were the intransigents, bringing the whole

The Workers.

Workers Deal With Strikebreaker.

PART ONE
BY "HISTORIAN"

industry to a halt by rolling strikes, which would start on one plantation and then spread for miles as the workers marched from plantation to plantation, bringing out the rest. Following this would come the actions described above and also the temporary occupation of small country towns like Islington, where the most serious shooting took place on 3 June.

THE AIMS OF THE BANANA CARRIERS?

Certainly these included higher wages and more regular work. At least two developments of the 1930s must have affected the position of the carriers adversely. First, the loss of banana-growing acreage through Panama disease had been severe; by late 1936 (the latest date for which figures are available) nearly 12,000 acres had gone out of use in St. Mary and at least 12,000 in Portland. Second, it had been the policy of the banana companies to close down most of the banana ports and concentrate activities on a few of them. This would have affected the dockers and boatmen most immediately, but also the carriers, whose services would have been an obvious target for economy on the part of growers now having to meet greater transport costs.

Nevertheless, it is not primarily as wage workers that the banana carriers must be seen, but as peasant farmers. Those working as carriers were either supplementing incomes derived from growing bananas on small holdings themselves, or else wished to get some land in order to become growers.

The strikers in St. Mary refused to go back to work after Manley and Bustamante addressed them at Port Maria and Annotto Bay on 31 May. **They refused to go back when wages in the parish were raised on 2 June: indeed, the biggest single disturbance occurred on the following day.** It was only after the announcement of the new land settlement scheme on 5 May that they began to listen to the government, and then gradually to return to work.

THE ANONYMOUS SUFFERER

We have now seen something of the major interests involved in the mass uprising of 1938. 1938 was a mass movement: for the first time since 1865 the people forced the powers-that-be to listen to them, and this time to respond not only with repression. Yet history is made by the masses, not written by them. In Jamaica in 1938 the voice of the sufferer remains almost completely dumb. Occasionally something comes through—the words of Edgar Daley, quoted above, or some of the strikers' songs. Two contemporary weeklies, **The Jamaica Labour Weekly** and **Plain Talk**, are invaluable in bringing us closer to the masses. But it is extremely difficult to glean anything about their aims, except for what may be arrived at by the sort of process we have already followed. It is even more difficult to discover what sort of organisational forms came spontaneously into being, or what grass-roots leaders emerged. Sometimes a genuine worker appears, like **Daley, or W. Williams** of the Kingston dockers. Sometimes the strikers sought an educated man as their spokesman—a local pharmacist at Raheen Sugar Estate, for example, a Baptist clergyman at Seville in St. Ann. But it is difficult to learn anything of the process of selection and the nature of such leadership. The leaders who we know were self-appointed and not of the masses—N.W. Manley and Alexander Bustamante.

THE ROLE OF MANLEY & BUSTAMANTE

A full analysis of the role of Manley and Bustamante is not possible here. **However, some of its aspects must be understood if we are to appreciate how the system survived its crisis in 1938.**

It is significant that almost as soon as the general disturbances broke out, the **Jamaica Standard**, in Jamaican conditions at that time the voice of "enlightened capitalism," called for "a man of high calibre, with no desire for personal aggrandizement, willing to come forward and take up this heavy burden of leadership". Bustamante had already associated himself with the aspirations of the poor, but this had earned him arrest and imprisonment on 24 May. Now Manley stepped forward to fill the breach, to the great relief of the middle class. His mission, as he conceived it, was to work with the new Conciliation Board, made up of colonial officials, politicians, and businessmen, expressing before it the views and demands of labour. On 26 May, however, he was rebuffed by the dockers, who would not agree to return to work until Bustamante was released; as their leader, Williams, put it, "*Now that we have seen Jehovah has put this great knowledge in our heads today we are not going to let one another down.*" On the 28th Bustamante was released on Manley's surety. The Governor's dislike of "agitators" did not prevent him from realising Manley needed Bustamante's help in order to get things under control.

Bustamante immediately proved his worth; released just after noon, he had by nightfall persuaded the dockers to resume work.

From our point of view, the crucial question is the nature of the relationship of Manley and Bustamante with the masses. Manley's position depended upon the acceptance by the masses of the already existing values of the class structure, which gave a middle class figure like Manley the right to claim superior wisdom and the ability to put the case of the masses better than they could—"**My head is wiser than yours tonight**", as he put it in a speech to strikers at Highgate, appealing for "**faith, hope and trust in the people who are trying to help you.**" *(Daily Gleaner, 4 June, 1938, p. 19.)* **Or, as Bustamante said of Manley to another crowd at Annotto Bay, "He had nothing to gain by helping them save the pleasure of knowing that he had helped to make them happy.** *(Jamaica Standard, 6 June, 1938, p. 4.)*

The important point about Bustamante in terms of the values that he put before his followers is that his position was identical to that of Manley. In his speeches he skilfully associated himself with Manley as a person who came from a higher social level and who, at great personal cost, was seeking to help the sufferer. Once again, he was dependent upon the acceptance by the masses of the existing values of the class structure. His view of his relationship with his followers is tellingly revealed in a single sentence: "**The day you have leaders, the police will not have to come out, for you will all be at your homes while I am with the employers adjusting matters on your behalf.**"

NEXT WEEK: THE FAILURE OF REBELLION

Latest in Fashions
CARBY'S
and
FAN FAIR STORES
1 Slipe Road,
Torrington Brtdge.
Kingston 5;
Telephone 24738.

★ HIT RECORDS
★ ENTERTAINERS
★ RECORDINGS
★ STAGE SHOWS

PRINCE BUSTER
Jamaica's No. 1 Radio & TV Personality
RECORD SHACK
127 ORANGE STREET—
KINGSTON, JAMAICA W. I.
Phone 26272

SELVIN
as Smerch
and
NOEL SALMON
of Ewarton
present
A NIGHT IN A WONDERLAND OF SOUL
Sounds of
THE SMERCH Discotheque
Saturday 31st May, 1969
51 Main Street, Ewarton
Admission COUPLE 7/-
SINGLE 3/6
Refreshments on Sale

ABENG

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE
george beckford
robert hill
trevor munroe
rupert lewis

Vol. 1 No. 17 May 24th, 1969

THIRTY:ONE YEARS AFTER

May 23 has been set aside as a national holiday—Labour Day. Let us pause to consider what we are celebrating. The date is supposed to remind us of the explosion of 1938 when the Jamaican working class rose up against the inhuman conditions of poverty in which they were forced to live. Unemployment, low wages and household earnings, and poor social services were the order of the day.

The incipient working class revolution was, however, aborted. The intervention of Bustamante and Manley served to abort the revolution. They bargained with the imperial power for only a little bit more for the sufferers. And they got a little bit more. A little bit more wages for the workers. A little bit more British financial assistance (Colonial Development and Welfare). Adult Suffrage. British-style two-party system. And eventually constitutional independence.

What has all this meant for the working class who started the whole business?

The British set up Bustamante and Manley as rivals. And these two set up trade unions and political parties. The trade unions have long since abandoned the working class. They have concentrated on bargaining with employers for a little bit more wages for those lucky to be employed. They have said and done nothing about unemployment. The political parties based on these unions have both had a chance to hold the office of "government". And each has worked to keep wages low. In fact they boast to foreign investors that we have cheap labour here in Jamaica. Imagine a "working class government" campaigning for foreign capital in this way!

While all this has been going on, the lot of the sufferers has changed very little. There is as much poverty and unemployment today as in 1938. Certainly, more unemployment among young people (15-25 years old). Little or no change in per capita food supplies. And a more unequal distribution of income. Imagine after 30-odd years, 60% of the households in this country get only 19% of total income while the top 10% of households get a whopping 43% of the total. And the picture would be much worse if one-third of the population increase had not emigrated!

After 30 years the two political trade unions—BITU and NWU—are celebrating the fact that they have only managed to get 19% of total income to share up among the working class households which make up 60% of all households in the country. If they set aside one day to celebrate this achievement, then the employer class should celebrate all year. And they do. Only they don't make a big fuss and show. They celebrate quietly among themselves and with the union leaders—whiskey like water all the time.

For the sufferer there is nothing to celebrate. They need instead to reflect on the experience. And the lesson is not to get caught like the sufferers of 1938. If that lesson is learnt, one day we shall really have something to celebrate.

BLOW THE HORN TELL THE PEOPLE

(Letters must be signed. Names withheld on request. Ed.)

NO CHANGE

I have been living in Buff Bay for many years, many Elections have passed me here and there is no improvement for the people.

Everytime Election is near all they get is four or five days work and after Election is over the work is over, or near a holiday like Christmas and the so-called Independence season.

These are the blind black sisters and brothers who go out on Election day and dip their fingers for the paltry little man. What has they gained nothing, and they will gain nothing until they can realise what is politics in Jamaica.

Another thing is the type of work that these people do, what they do is to carry dirt on their heads in old pans. I would like to ask my black brothers and sisters if this is their ambition. They have a Minister representing them who is one of the oldest members in the House of Representatives. I want to know if he cannot organise something better in this constituency of Western Portland.

BUFF BAY

POLICE CRIME

I congratulate you on the progress your paper has made during the past few months. I know that your paper is not like other papers and will publish my letter.

During the holidays I went to visit some friends. It was a Saturday evening and two of us decided to go. At about 8.30 p.m. I went to my friend's shop. While we were there a policeman came into the shop and told us that we should be in bed. I politely told him that I was the youngest boy there and that I was 17 years old. He told us that anybody under 19 years old should be in bed by 8.30 p.m.. We did not protest but left and began to walk home. It so happened that we had had to pass the Police Station on going home.

When we reached the gate of the Station the policeman came out (he had changed from civilian clothes into his uniform, he also had a gun with him) and stopped us. He asked us why we were on the street at that time of night (about 9.05 p.m.) and we told him that we had just visited some friends and were going home. He told us that he could lock us up at which my friend said that he did not believe the policeman had a right to do it. At this point my friend was chucked and the policeman said "Me go see if me can't lock yu up." The policeman then grabbed my friend in his waist and drawn into the station where he was locked up. The reason I was not given the same treatment was because my brother and the police were friends.

Now Mr. Editor, is it right? A boy has come home on holidays from school where he is trying his best to make Jamaica a better place to live in and is taken and thrown into prison for nothing at all. I believe all this foolishness should stop. The excuse that the police use is that the Government is backing them.

ULSTER SPRINGIAN

SELL OUT

"Like Joseph, Black Jamaicans have been sold by our politician".

The elder Black brothers of our land, chosen and set over us as rulers have displayed the same treachery as the brothers of Joseph.

Now they have sold us into capitalism by allowing foreign capitalists to enter our country and exploit our resources, under guise of foreign development programmes. Truly it is development, but it is needless to mention that a greater percentage of the profit is sent home to the already prosperous country of the investors.

Why should Jamaican citizens living on land of their own for years be forced to accept another location because their land has the minerals a foreigner wants to mine? The methods of acquiring properties from farmers by the foreign capitalists is definitely improper, yet our rulers assist foreigners, thereby neglecting the interest of the people.

L. FITZROY LOCKE

SUGAR: WHO DECIDES?

The recent article in Abeng entitled "Monymusk threatens the people" purports to contain two statements of fact which require correction. The first casts doubt on WISCO's assertion that it is operating at a loss on the ground that "We have no real say in what these men do with their books". This statement indicates a total lack of understanding of the elementary principles of Company Law. A public company like WISCO is legally obliged to publish accounts audited by an independent firm of public accountants. It is therefore a relatively simple matter for someone to examine the audited accounts and confirm that WISCO is, in fact, operating at a loss. Even if this exercise is too taxing for the writer of the article, I have no doubt that there are persons on your editorial board with sufficient competence and energy to carry out this exercise.

The article also states that the decision concerning the possible closure of Monymusk was made at a meeting of shareholders in London. This is factually incorrect. The decision was made in Jamaica by Jamaican directors. On the assumption that the writer of the article based his statement on some source of information, I can only conclude that his source was an active imagination and a highly developed capacity for self-deception.

Contrary to the suggestion in your article, the decision was made by people who are fully conscious of the needs of the Jamaica Sugar Industry as a whole and the welfare of all the people involved in that industry.

RICHARD MAHFOOD

EDITORIAL COMMENT

On the point about books, accounts and auditors, all we need to say is that there are books and books. Everyone knows what that means. Businessmen, tax collectors and Government know the score only too well.

On the point about decision making we refer readers to the latest Directors Report of Tate and Lyle which states that that British company is beneficially interested in 90.63 per cent of the issued share capital of WISCO. If we are to take Mr. Mahfood seriously, it is a revolutionary change in conventional business policy whereby the owners of less than 10 per cent of a firm's share capital decide company policy.

Maybe this is a new development. But it is more probably "active imagination and a highly developed capacity for self-deception"; and, we might add, national deception.

EDITORS

ALL AFRICANS DAY, SUNDAY MAY 25th (3 p.m.)
AT AFRICA HALL,
76 King Street.

Come to Kingston Race Course by the Cenotaph this Friday, Saturday & Sunday 23 - 25th, May 1969. From 9 a.m. Hear God's Message to You, from the Prophet Like Unto Moses, King Solomon.

For the best in Men's Sportwear – Shirts & Ganzies
visit
F'. HURST
55 Maiden Lane, Kgn.

SUGAR WORKERS CONFERENCE
Place — FEDERAL THEATRE, GRANGE HILL
Date — Sunday 8th, JUNE 1969
Time — 1 p.m.
Guest Speaker — to be announced
You Have Done Your Sentence. Now Establish a SUGAR WORKERS COUNCIL on every farm and in every Factory with the JAMAICA MARITIME UNION

COME TO APPLETON GROUNDS
Friday May 23 for
Football Match — "STANS" of UWI vs. SANTA UNITED and
"LOVE FIESTA" with
Sounds by Sir Richards the Immortal

I, MONSELL BURCHELL ABENG DOONQUAH heretofore called and known by the name of BURCHELL MONSELL DOUGLAS HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that on the 23rd day of April, One Thousand Nine Hunderd and Sixty-nine, I renounced and abandoned the use of my said christian names BURCHELL MONSELL and my surname DOUGLAS and ASSUMED in lieu thereof the christian names MONSELL BURCHELL ABENG and the surname DOONQUAH AND FURTHER that such change of name is evidenced by Deed dated the 23rd day of April, One Thousand Nine Hundred and Sixty-nine duly executed by, attested and enrolled in the Island Record Office, Spanish Town in the parish of St. Catherine

Published by Abeng Publishing Co. Ltd., 4 Collins Green A[ve]. Robert A. Hill Secretary Treasurer at 11 Oakcroft Ave., Kingston 8. Printed by Bruce Printing Ltd., 6 East St., Kingston May 24th, 1969